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Thursday, January 17, 2013

- **EID-Texas:** Associated Press story on Parker Co. case purposefully leaves out critical details ([1/16](#))

#### NATIONAL

EPA reversed intervention order after protest. [E&E News](#) (sub req'd). [Energy In Depth](#), a campaign created by the Independent Petroleum Association of America, issued a [rebuttal](#), denying claims that EPA changed its position because of Range. Instead, the campaign said, the scientific research EPA had intended to use had been called into question. NOTE: Also featured in [Politico Pro](#) (sub req'd).

Monterey Shale could provide huge economic impact to California. [Wall Street Journal](#). The overall economic benefits of opening up the Monterey shale field could reach \$1 trillion. One can only imagine the impact on California's education system, social programs, infrastructure, and even energy-tech R&D. Moreover, with that kind of revenue, Sacramento tax collections could wipe out debt and deficits.

Vitter: 'Political purposes' behind EPA HF study. [The Hill](#). "The additional eight-month delay further illustrates that the EPA's initial findings failed to be based on sound credible science, and hastily rushed out the door for political purposes," Vitter wrote EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.

US close to energy independence by 2030. [UPI](#). The United States may be close to self-sufficiency in energy by 2030 because of a "shale revolution" in the country, said BP's chief executive officer. BP this week published its global energy outlook, which states that unconventional oil and natural gas reserves are expected to have major implications for energy sector growth. NOTE: [Fox News](#) and [NGI Shale Daily](#) (sub req'd) also reports.

Report Recommends Changes to Tax Exemption for HF. [Texas Tribune](#). David Blackmon, a spokesman for the Texas Oil and Gas Association, said that the group was pleased that the Legislative Budget Board did not recommend elimination of the high-cost gas provision (unlike HB 55). However, he added, the association is "at a loss to understand why the LBB, at a time when the state is running a significant budget surplus, would be calling for what would be a major tax increase on the most highly-taxed and greatest job-creating business in the state of Texas."

Industry adopts growing use of social media. [SNL Media](#). John Krohn of [Energy In Depth](#) said in a Jan. 10 interview that he has seen increasing use of social media in the oil and gas industry.

As social media became a well-established means of not only interacting with but also informing the general public, energy companies and organizations began to see value in getting involved, Krohn observed.

**FrackNation picks up positive reviews from unlikely places.** [E&E News](#). "According to myths propagated by The New York Times, CNN, etc., if you go to Dimock, Pa., where there's fracking occurring, [you'll find] death, destruction," McElhinney said. "Obviously, with that kind of description, you'd expect to find dramatic stories everywhere."

## INTERNATIONAL

Shale gas may come along slower for UK, says BP. [The Telegraph](#). Shale gas is unlikely to be a "game-changer" for the UK over the next two decades, energy giant BP said, as it warned that Europe would become increasingly dependent on imported gas.

Creating successful local partnerships in the Chinese shale gas sector. [Oil Voice](#). In this three part series, John McGoldrick, CEO of Dart Energy International, looks at the developing state of Chinese shale gas projects, and some of the implications these might have on the international industry.

UK Minister Expects Shale Tax Break Details in Spring. [Bloomberg](#). "We are in discussions with the Treasury," Hayes told lawmakers today at an Energy and Climate Change Committee meeting in London. "All matters are being discussed and considered. The way it's being envisaged currently is a way of stimulating exploration" where the costs are significant.

Brazil may auction shale gas from as many as five basins. [Reuters](#). Brazil could offer exploration blocks that contain deposits of shale gas in as many as five separate basins in an auction planned for December, preliminary studies by the national oil agency (ANP) showed.

Ukraine, Shell move closer to \$512b shale deal. [TODAY News](#). Ukraine took a step closer to a breakthrough shale gas deal with global energy major Royal Dutch Shell on Wednesday when local authorities in the eastern Donetsk region approved a planned production sharing agreement.

## COLORADO

CU-Boulder, NOAA study uncovers oil and gas emission's 'chemical signature'. [Daily Camera](#). Emissions from oil and natural gas operations account for more than half of the pollutants -- such as propane and butane -- that contribute to ozone formation in Erie, according to a new scientific study published this week. NOTE: [The Coloradoan](#) also reports.

## NORTH CAROLINA

HF regulations must emphasize public health. [Daily Tar Heel](#). Editorial. As the Mining and Energy Commission works to finalize regulations on hydraulic fracturing — also known as "fracking" — in North Carolina, the commission needs to place the health and safety of North Carolina citizens at the forefront of its decision-making process. This should trump all other considerations.

NC group to discuss HF, horizontal drilling. [Associated Press](#). A study group of the commission that's studying hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling in North Carolina will meet to discuss regulations for those activities.

## NORTHEAST

Marcellus Shale, movie star. [Pittsburgh Post Gazette](#), Terry Engelder and David

Yoxtheimer Natural gas is a cleaner-burning fuel than coal, and the process of drilling for it results in many fewer environmental impacts than coal mining. For those who say there are no environmental rewards, the U.S. Energy Information Administration recently reported that the amount of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere in the United States has fallen to its lowest level in 20 years. This reflects not only the recent economic downturn but also the rapid displacement of coal by natural gas in the electrical generation industry. Natural gas releases about 45 percent less carbon dioxide than coal when combusted.

Not all communities are opposed to HF. [Press & Sun-Bulletin, Op-Ed](#). The vast majority of the town officials where gas exploration will likely take place if permitted have taken no formal position in this matter. We have passed no bans or moratoriums, nor we have we passed resolutions of support. With this review now approaching five years, the last thing that is needed is more time. We are ready for decisions upon which we can act.

Innovations wanted: Contest offers \$75K for shale gas ideas. [Keystone Edge](#). With Pennsylvania on the fast track to being the second leading natural gas producing state, the push is on for innovation. Now the Ben Franklin Shale Gas Innovation and Commercialization Center is offering a total of \$75,000 in cash prizes for three gas-related innovations, new product ideas or service concepts that are either in development or recently launched.

O'Malley proposes funding HF study. [Baltimore Sun](#). O'Malley included \$1.5 million in his fiscal 2014 budget "to provide citizens, business leaders and policymakers the research and data they need to fully consider the potential economic and ecological impacts of natural gas extraction in Maryland," according to a summary of the spending plan released by the governor's office.

Yoko Ono on Anti- HF Bus Ahead of Cuomo Decision. [Bloomberg](#). Yoko Ono, who opposes hydraulic fracturing for natural gas, looks to Pennsylvania and sees her worst fears realized. New York landowners, eager for the cash energy development can bring, see a promised land.

Cuomo's speech left many questions. [Niagara Gazette, Editorial](#). The elephant in the Empire State Plaza on Jan. 9 was undeniably fracking. The lengthy and ambitious agenda the governor laid out for the state contained no mention of the controversial natural gas drilling practice, despite the fact that the state government is poised to make a decision this year about the future of fracking.

HF shakes up the Earth. [Albany Times Union, Op-Ed](#). In the debate over the environmental risks tied to hydraulic fracturing, the state has overlooked one threat that could give New Yorkers a jolt: the potential for wastewater disposal to trigger earthquakes.

Hollywood Sends Anti- HF Message to Cuomo. [FOX 40](#). The comment period on fracking has closed and many New York residents are anxiously waiting to see if Governor Cuomo will allow hydraulic fracturing.

**WATCH: Legislators Will Debate a Moratorium on HF.** [The Patch](#). State delegates offer differing opinions on whether a process used to extract natural gas from underground rock deposits has a place in Maryland.

## OHIO

Says HF taxes should be used for infrastructure, schools. [Twinsburg Bulletin, LTE](#).

Republican Gov. John Kasich and the Republican-dominated Ohio Legislature are at it again. These short-sighted politicians are planning to increase the severance taxes on the oil and gas industry and borrow \$1.5 billion in new debt.

**Drilling progress.** Columbus Dispatch, Editorial. The new “green finish” process does away with the practice of venting or burning off the initial production of wells to clear out impurities such as sand and drilling debris. By capturing impurities before they’re released or burnt off into the air, the process doesn’t disturb the surrounding area nearly as much and doesn’t release methane and other potential pollutants.

#### TEXAS

**ANGA calls for better dialogue.** Houston Chronicle/Fuel Fix. Hopper said natural gas backers need to have real dialogues with the wary landowners on the issue. “It’s important for us to have conversations with these people . . . who sincerely have questions: about natural gas development, she said. “You don’t want to lose momentum . . . based on unsubstantiated fear.”

**Study finds HF water a small proportion of state's water use.** The Daily Texan. Despite the dramatic increase, both Nicot and senior research scientist Bridget Scanlon said that because water used for fracking is about 1 percent of the state’s overall water use, it will not create a water shortage at a statewide level, although Scanlon said problems could arise locally.

#### WYOMING

**Mead disappointed by new EPA Pavillion extension.** Associated Press. Gov. Matt Mead has joined those expressing disappointment that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has extended for a third time a public comment period on a report on groundwater pollution in a Wyoming gas field rather than moving toward wrapping up the study.

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